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ALL-OUT ACTION WITH THE AWESOME
BLACK PANTHER™
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WAY OF THE WARRIOR!
THIS ISSUE--MEET T'CHALLA'S FAMILY! THEY MUST REGAIN THEIR FIGHTING HERITAGE--OR FALL BEFORE AN INHUMAN FOE!

With the sleekness of a jungle beast, the Prince of Wakanda stalks both the concrete of the city and the undergrowth of the veldt, for when danger lurks he dons the garb of the savage cat from which he gains his name!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE BLACK PANTHER!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKED AND LETTERED BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORS BY **GLYNIS WEIN** • CONSULTING EDITOR **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

TRADITION CALLS THE **RULING FAMILY** OF THE CULT TO DUTY... BUT, IT IS WORK FOR WARRIORS... COMBAT IN THE ARENA OF LIFE AND DEATH! CAN THE MODERN LIFE-STYLE OF T'CHALLA'S RELATIVES **QUALIFY** THEM FOR THIS TERRIBLE TASK? JUDGE THEM FOR YOURSELVES! ARE THEY...

PANTHERS OR PUSSYCATS?

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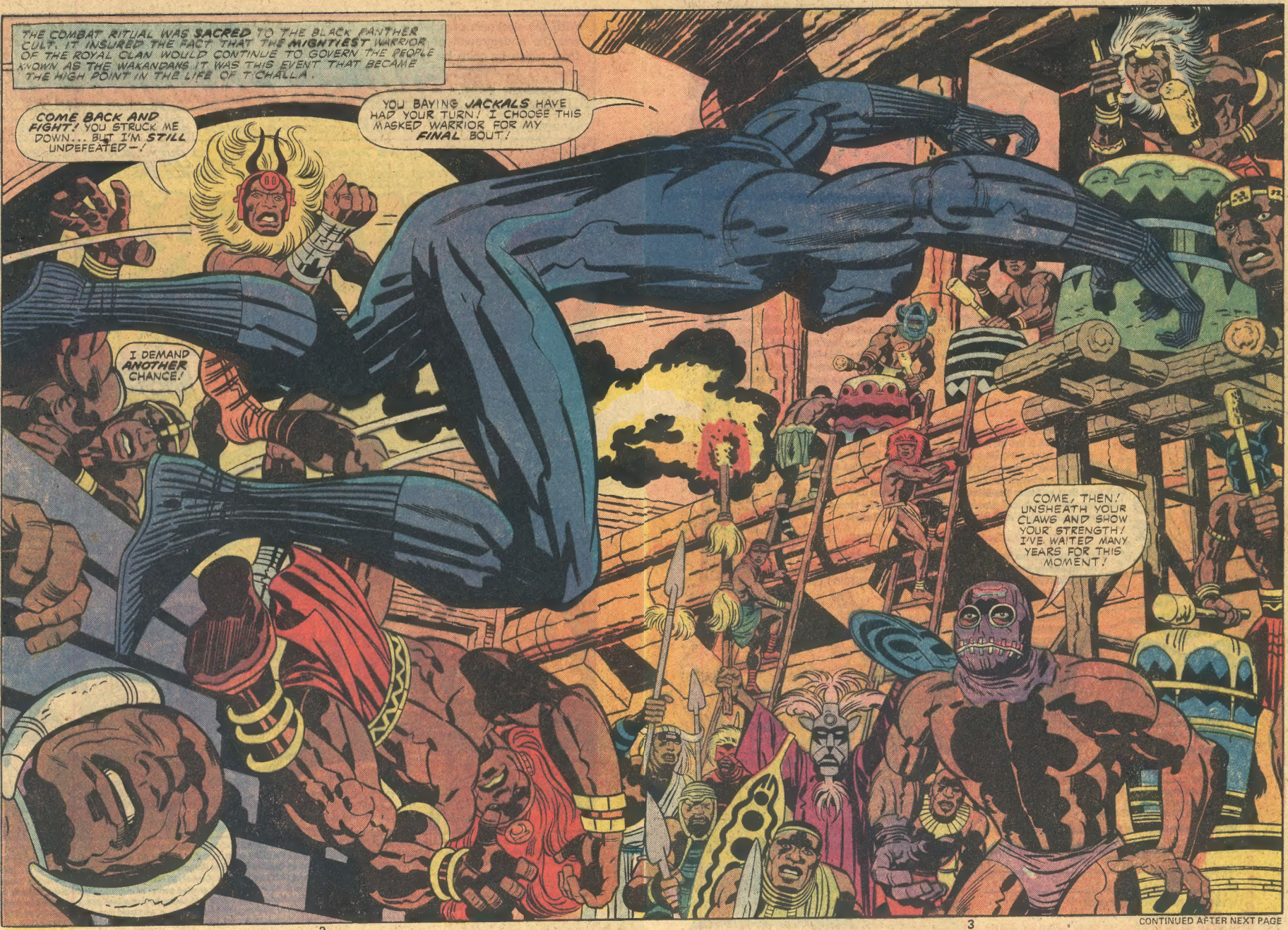
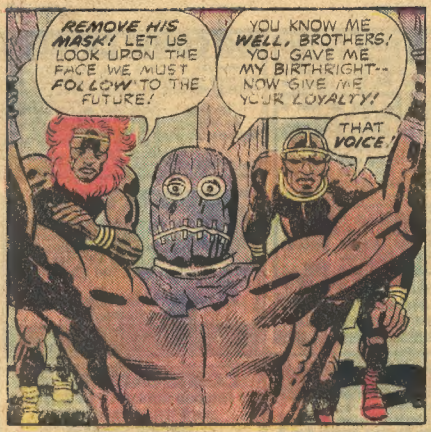

THE COMBAT RITUAL WAS SACRED TO THE BLACK PANTHER CULT. IT INSURED THE FACT THAT THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF THE ROYAL CLAN WOULD CONTINUE TO GOVERN THE PEOPLE KNOWN AS THE WAKANDANS. IT WAS THIS EVENT THAT BECAME THE HIGH POINT IN THE LIFE OF T'CHALLA.
COME BACK AND FIGHT! YOU STRUCK ME DOWN... BUT I'M STILL UNDEFEATED—!
YOU BAYING JACKALS HAVE HAD YOUR TURN! I CHOOSE THIS MASKED WARRIOR FOR MY FINAL BOUT!
I DEMAND ANOTHER CHANCE!
COME, THEN! UNSHEATH YOUR CLAWS AND SHOW YOUR STRENGTH! I'VE WAITED MANY YEARS FOR THIS MOMENT!

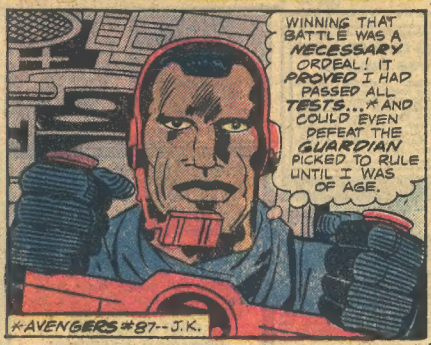
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

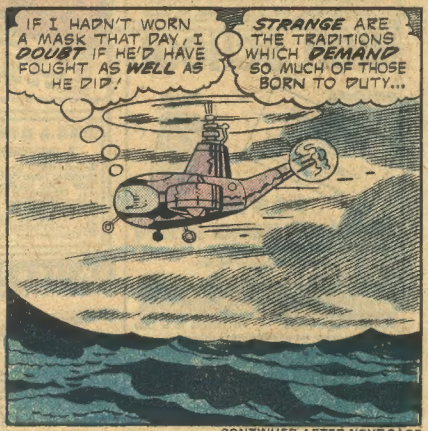
THE MASKED WARRIOR HAS TAKEN THE ATTACK WITHOUT FALTERING! OUR PANTHER HAS MET A YOUNG LION!
THIS IS A BATTLE WORTH WATCHING!
POW!
SMASH!
KRAK!
WE'LL SOON SEE WHOSE MIGHT PREVAILS!
LOOK, BROTHERS! THE PANTHER WEAKENS!
HE'S YIELDING GROUND!
KAM!
WE MAY BE WITNESSING THE END OF AN ERA -- AND THE COMING OF A NEW ONE!
IT IS SAD WHEN THE OLD ONES FAIL!
SILENCE! THIS IS THE MOMENT!
THEN, AS THE ONLOOKERS GASP IN ASTONISHMENT...
WHEN HE LOWERS HIM TO THE GROUND-- IT WILL BE OVER!
BY THE RITES OF BATTLE-- BY THE HONOR CODE OF THE WAKANDA--
--I CLAIM THE TITLE OF BLACK PANTHER-- RULER OF THIS CULT AND FIRST GUARDIAN OF THE VIBRANIUM MOUND!
THE RULER HAS LOST!
LONG LIVE THE NEW RULER!
HAIL TO THE MASKED WARRIOR! MIGHTIEST OF US ALL!


REMOVE HIS MASK! LET US LOOK UPON THE FACE WE MUST FOLLOW TO THE FUTURE!
YOU KNOW ME WELL, BROTHERS! YOU GAVE ME MY BIRTHRIGHT--NOW GIVE ME YOUR LOYALTY!
THAT VOICE!

THERE ARE FEW AMONG US WITH SUCH A COMMANDING VOICE--!
IT IS TRUE! WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
WHO BUT THE SON OF OUR LONG-SLAIN CHIEFTAIN * COULD DEFEAT OUR PRESENT CHAMPION AND REGENT?!
* SEE FANTASTIC FOUR #53--JACK.

IT WAS A NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN SCENE... DREDGED UP FROM THE HEART OF A MAN WHO HAS WANDERED FAR FROM HIS BEGINNINGS... AND IS NOW RETURNING HOME...

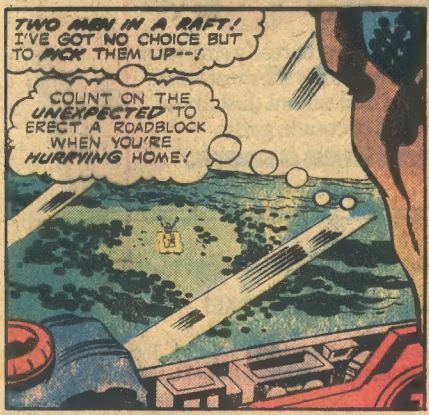

WINNING THAT BATTLE WAS A NECESSARY ORDEAL! IT PROVED I HAD PASSED ALL TESTS... * AND COULD EVEN DEFEAT THE GUARDIAN PICKED TO RULE UNTIL I WAS OF AGE.
* AVENGERS #87--J.K.

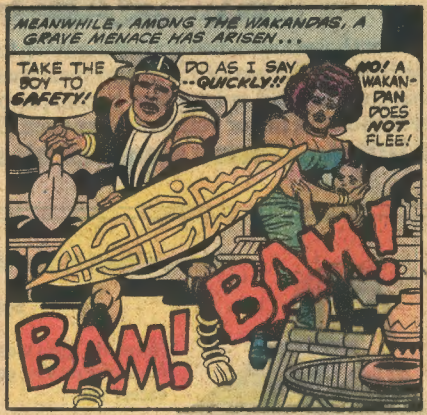

IF I HADN'T WORN A MASK THAT DAY, I DOUBT IF HE'D HAVE FOUGHT AS WELL AS HE DID!
STRANGE ARE THE TRADITIONS WHICH DEMAND SO MUCH OF THOSE BORN TO DUTY...

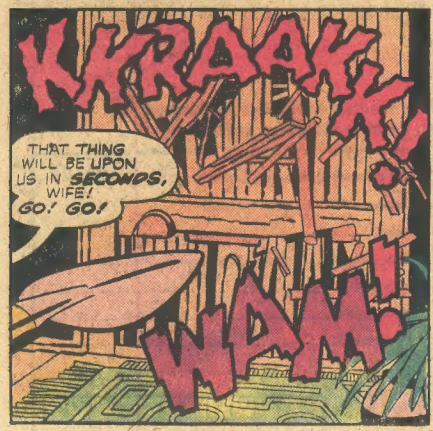
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

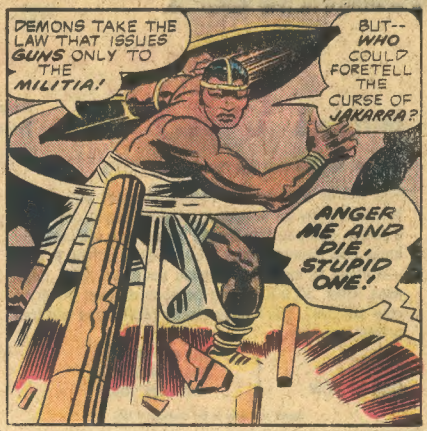
IT SEEMS LIKE DECADES HAVE PASSED SINCE I LEFT THE WAKANDAS FOR OBLIGATIONS ELSEWHERE. I'VE PRACTICALLY BEEN LIVING ANOTHER LIFE!

THERE IS MORE TO DO THAN RECAPTURE OLD MEMORIES! I MUST SEE AND TOUCH AND WORK WITH MY PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN!
WHAT'S THAT!? SOMETHING'S AFLOAT IN THE SEA BELOW!


TWO MEN IN A RAFT! I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO PICK THEM UP--!
COUNT ON THE UNEXPECTED TO ERECT A ROADBLOCK WHEN YOU'RE HURRYING HOME!


MEANWHILE, AMONG THE WAKANDAS, A GRAVE MENACE HAS ARISEN...
TAKE THE BOY TO SAFETY!
DO AS I SAY --QUICKLY!!
NO! A WAKANDAN DOES NOT FLEE!
BAM!
BAM!


KKRAAK!
THAT THING WILL BE UPON US IN SECONDS, WIFE! GO! GO!
WAM!

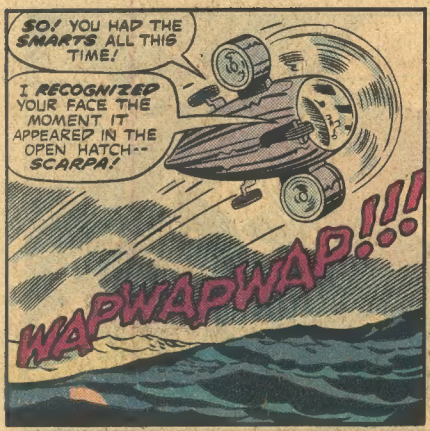

DEMONS TAKE THE LAW THAT ISSUES GUNS ONLY TO THE MILITIA!
BUT-- WHO COULD FORETELL THE CURSE OF JAKARRA?
ANGER ME AND DIE, STUPID ONE!

CRAASH!
BEGONE, EVIL ONE! THE BLIGHT YOU BROUGHT UPON YOURSELF HAS MADE YOU AN ABOMINATION!
THEN...
FOOL! I THIRST! I THIRST!!
WAAAMM!!
WHAT WAS ONCE A HUMAN BEING NOW HURLS ITS BEAST-LIKE FORM AT THE FAMILY LARDER...
THIS CLAY JUG IS FILLED WITH A COOL LIQUID!
I CAN'T STOP HIM! IT'S BEST TO LEAVE THIS TO THE MILITIA!
JAKARRA WILL WRECK THE ENTIRE VILLAGE BEFORE HE'S THROUGH!
RRAAKK!!
A RUNAWAY METABOLISM IN THE PROCESS OF VIOLENT CHANGE IS BRIEFLY CALMED AS THE TRANS-HUMAN DRINKS DEEPLY AND GREEDILY...
GOATS MILK--! THE DRINK OF LOWLY PEASANTS!!
BUT RIGHT NOW, IT TASTES LIKE A GIFT FROM THE GODS--A PAUSE FROM THE DEVILISH EFFECT OF MY EXPOSURE TO VIBRANIUM!
WHAT IS IT DOING TO ME? WHAT SHALL I BE WHEN ITS WORK IS COMPLETED!?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

I WON'T BE HANDSOME, THAT'S FOR CERTAIN!
CRASH!
BE CAUTIOUS, MEN! THIS WON'T BE AN ORDINARY CAPTURE!
A MOMENT LATER...
MILITIA! SO, YOU'VE COME FOR ME, EH?
DON'T RESIST, JAKARRA! YOU'VE GOT TO BE CONFINED!
IF YOU PUT UP A FIGHT-- WE'LL OPEN FIRE!
HE'S CHOSEN TO ATTACK! CUT HIM DOWN!
SAVE YOUR AMMUNITION! THE NEW JAKARRA IS MADE OF STERNER SUBSTANCE THAN THE MAN YOU KNEW!
POW! POW! POW!
SSPEEOW!
HE SOUGHT POWER--AND FOUND IT-- IN THE STRANGEST OF WAYS!
THAT POWER HAS DRIVEN YOU MAD! YOU'RE A MENACE TO ALL OF HUMANITY!
LOOK OUT, MEN! HE'S GOT THE STRENGTH OF A TANK!
WAK!
POW
BAM
I'LL TEACH YOU DOGS WHO IS IN COMMAND HERE!
MOMENTS LATER, THERE IS ONLY THE SOUND OF JAKARRA'S COARSE AND HEAVY BREATHING...
QUAKE, WAKANDAS! TREMBLE HUMANS! THE VICTORIES I YEARNED FOR AS A MAN I SHALL WIN TENFOLD -- IN A MISSHAPEN FORM OF DESTINY'S MAKING!

DESTINY IS A FORCE UNCEASING IN ITS WORK... AS IT PYRAMIDS THE DANGER AT HOME, THE FORTUNES OF T'CHALLA DELAY HIS RETURN...
TAKE IT EASY UP THERE! DON'T PULL US IN LIKE FLOUNDER!
SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO JOSTLE YOU ABOUT!
YOU ALMOST YANKED MY ARM FROM ITS SOCKET!
THIS IS A BIG CHOPPER YOU'VE GOT, MISTER... LONG RANGE STUFF, EH?
FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, IT WAS TRAVELLING THIS ROUTE!
DON'T BUG THE GUY, HERMAN. HE JUST SAVED OUR LIVES!
NO THANKS NEEDED. I'LL DROP YOU TWO OFF AT THE NEAREST PORT AND RESUME MY JOURNEY.
WHERE EXACTLY IS THE NEAREST PORT?
ER... WHAT HERMAN MEANS IS--
--WE COULD MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE TO TAKE US TO THE ISLAND OF CORSICA!
IT'S TOO FAR BEHIND US. I'M APPROACHING THE AFRICAN COAST.
WE'RE NOT JUST STRAYS, MISTER. SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I CAN TELL YOU THAT I'M A CELEBRITY OF SORTS--THE PRESIDENT OF A LARGE CORPORATION, YOU MIGHT SAY!
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION... IT'S LED BY A GODFATHER -- NOT A PRESIDENT!

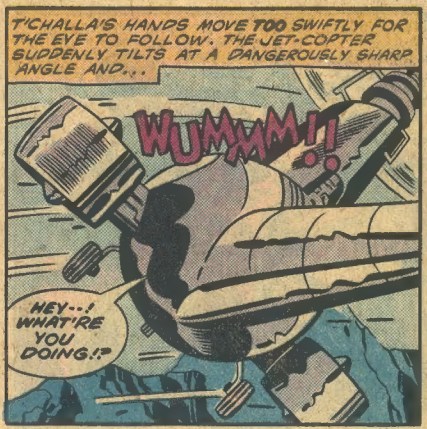

SO! YOU HAD THE SMARTS ALL THIS TIME!
I RECOGNIZED YOUR FACE THE MOMENT IT APPEARED IN THE OPEN HATCH-- SCARPA!
WAPWAPWAP!!!

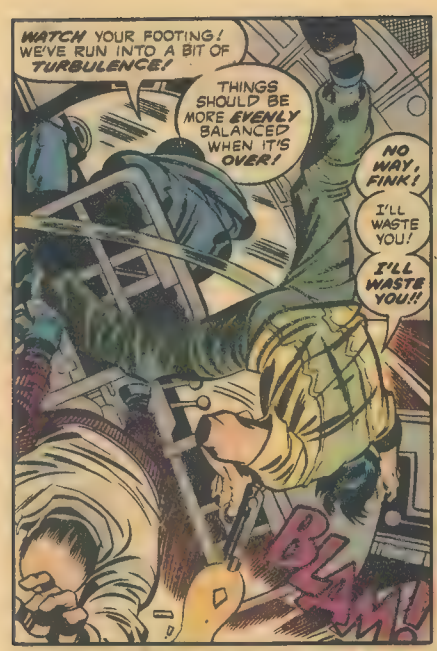
OKAY... SO YOU READ THE HEADLINES AND WATCH T.V.
YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MOBSTER MOVIE!
THEN YOU MOST ALSO KNOW THAT NICK SCARPA MEANS WHAT HE SAYS! NOW POINT THE NOSE OF THIS EGG-BEATER TOWARD CORSICA-- AND KEEP GOING!

YEAH! OLD MOBSTERS SOUND LIKE THAT-- BUT THIS ONE AIMS TO OUTRUN THE LAW TO HOME BASE!
WE WERE HEADING THERE WHEN A STORM CAPSIZED THE BOSS'S MOTOR YACHT!
BUT... WE'RE NOT PICKY! THIS CHOPPER WILL DO THE JOB!

IT'S GOT EVERYTHING WE NEED --LOTS OF FUEL-- A GOOD PILOT-- AND THIS HEATER FOR INSURANCE!
I WAS THINKING OF HOME, TOO. IT WAS A MISTAKE!
DIDN'T KNOW I WAS PACKING ONE, DID YOU!?

FORGET YOUR HOME-- WHEREVER THAT IS! JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD AND STAY ALIVE!
THAT'S SOUND ADVICE, FLY-BOY! YOUR NEXT MISTAKE WILL BE FATAL!
WE'VE REACHED THE AFRICAN COAST! I WON'T TURN BACK FOR DEATH HIMSELF!


T'CHALLA'S HANDS MOVE TOO SWIFTLY FOR THE EYE TO FOLLOW. THE JET-COPTER SUDDENLY TILTS AT A DANGEROUSLY SHARP ANGLE AND...
WUMMM!!
HEY--! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?


WATCH YOUR FOOTING! WE'VE RUN INTO A BIT OF TURBULENCE!
THINGS SHOULD BE MORE EVENLY BALANCED WHEN IT'S OVER!
NO WAY, FINK!
I'LL WASTE YOU!
I'LL WASTE YOU!!
BLAM!

WHAM! WHAM!
I CAN'T ZERO IN ON HIM, BOSS!
NOT WHILE HE'S SHAKING THIS TUB TO PIECES!
DON'T SHOOT TO KILL! JUST MAKE HIM BLEED A LITTLE! WE NEED HIM ALIVE!

T'CHALLA DONS HIS RITUAL HOOD AS HE SETS THE CONTROLS ON AUTOMATIC PILOT...
KRASH!
I'VE TAKEN ALL I CAN FROM THESE TWO! IT'S TIME TO STRIKE BACK!

BUT ONE OF HERMAN'S BULLETS HAS PENETRATES A VITAL FUEL LINE AND SET THE AIRCRAFT ABLAZE...
TOO LATE! THE IGNORANT FOOLS HAVE DISABLED THE COPTER! IT'LL TAKE EVERY BIT OF KNOW-HOW THAT I POSSESS TO BRING HER DOWN!
WE'RE BURNING! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

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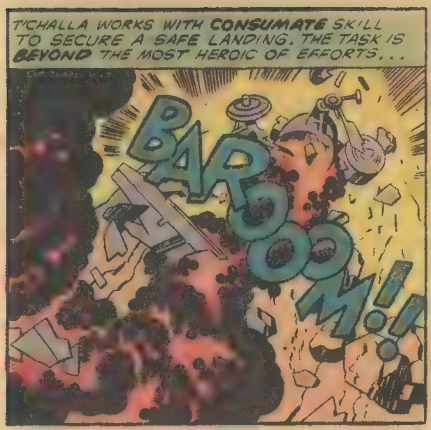
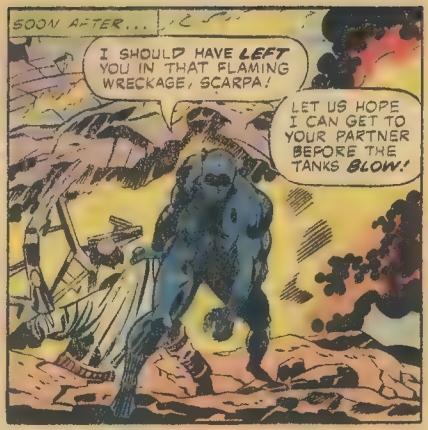
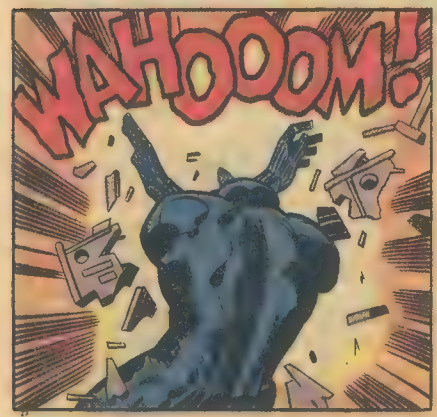
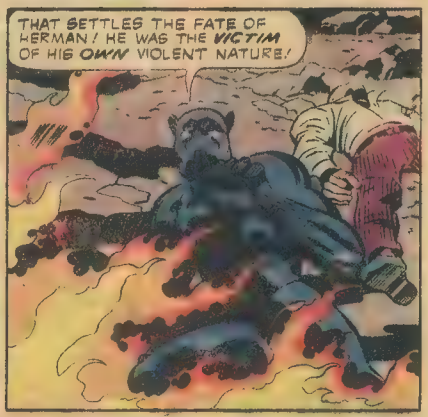
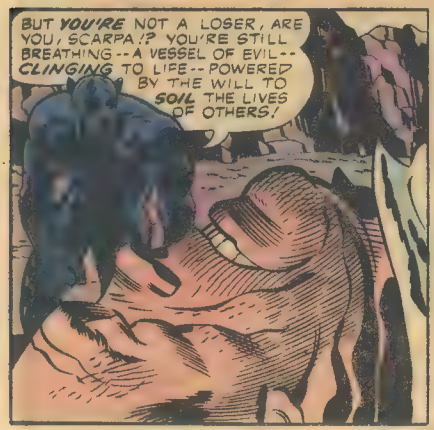
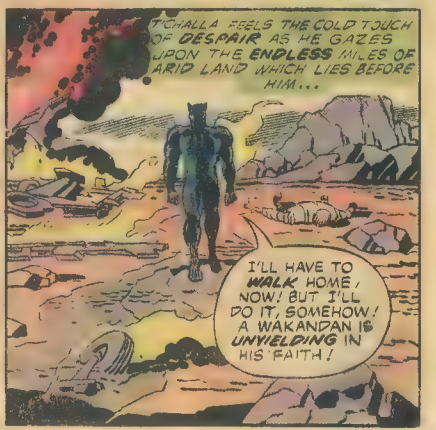

T'CHALLA WORKS WITH CONSUMATE SKILL TO SECURE A SAFE LANDING. THE TASK IS BEYOND THE MOST HEROIC OF EFFORTS...
BARROOM!!


SOON AFTER...
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU IN THAT FLAMING WRECKAGE, SCARPA!
LET US HOPE I CAN GET TO YOUR PARTNER BEFORE THE TANKS BLOW!


WAHOOOM!


THAT SETTLES THE FATE OF HERMAN! HE WAS THE VICTIM OF HIS OWN VIOLENT NATURE!


BUT YOU'RE NOT A LOSER, ARE YOU, SCARPA!? YOU'RE STILL BREATHING--A VESSEL OF EVIL--CLINGING TO LIFE--POWERED BY THE WILL TO SOIL THE LIVES OF OTHERS!


T'CHALLA FEELS THE COLD TOUCH OF DESPAIR AS HE GAZES UPON THE ENDLESS MILES OF ARID LAND WHICH LIES BEFORE HIM...
I'LL HAVE TO WALK HOME, NOW! BUT I'LL DO IT, SOMEHOW! A WAKANDAN IS UNYIELDING IN HIS FAITH!

MEANWHILE, IN T'CHALLA'S DOMAIN...
THE MEMBERS OF THE RULING FAMILY AWAIT YOUR PRESENCE, N'GASSI.
SO...FOUR WAS ALL WE COULD MUSTER, EH? I SUPPOSE ALL THE REST ARE TOO OCCUPIED WITH AFFAIRS IN DISTANT LANDS...
THIS ERA OF MOBILITY HAS PLAYED HAVOC WITH OUR HERITAGE! EVEN MIGHTY T'CHALLA IS OUT OF REACH IN THIS GRAVE HOUR...
HE IS SORELY NEEDED, NOBLE ONE!
I'VE SEEN THE OTHERS. THEY SEEM UNLIKELY CANDIDATES FOR THE TASK WE FACE. IT DEMANDS A WARRIOR'S HAND, SIRE! PERHAPS MINE--
YOURS WOULD DO FINE, JIRU...IF IT COURSED WITH THE BLOOD OF ROYALTY!
WAKANDAN TRADITION SHALL NOT BE BROKEN WHILE I GOVERN IN T'CHALLA'S ABSENCE! OPEN THE DOOR.
I SHALL ANNOUNCE YOUR ARRIVAL.
THEN...
WELL, WELL... THE OLD MAN HAS COME AT LAST!
HE DRESSES RATHER SIMPLY FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR OF HIGH OFFICE!
A WISE MAN NEEDN'T BE A FASHION PLATE.
HUMH! I KNEW THE OLD LEOPARD WHEN HE HAD LESS WISDOM AND MORE SPIRIT!
I PRESENT N'GASSI, FIRST REGENT AND AID TO THE MIGHTY T'CHALLA!

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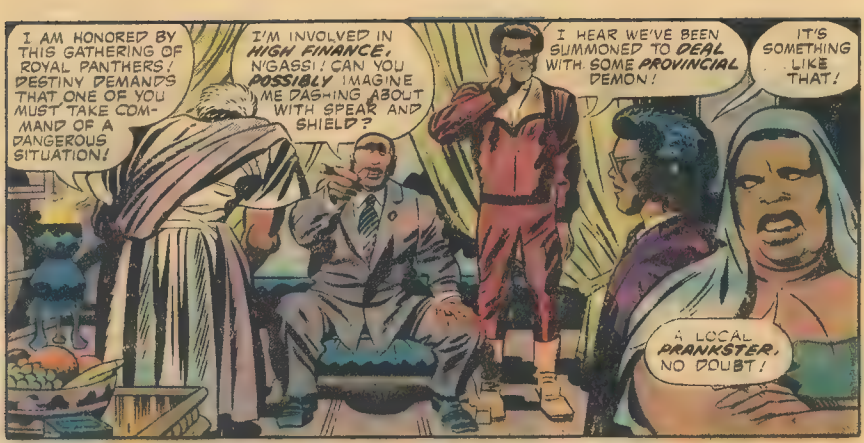
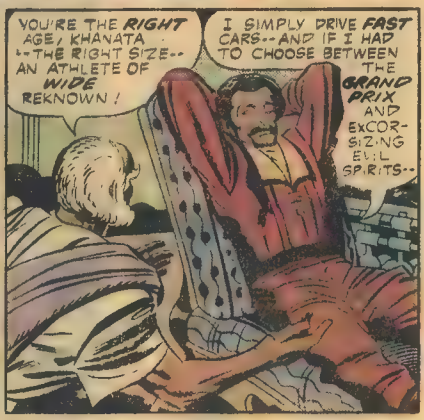

I AM HONORED BY THIS GATHERING OF ROYAL PANTHERS! DESTINY DEMANDS THAT ONE OF YOU MUST TAKE COMMAND OF A DANGEROUS SITUATION!
I'M INVOLVED IN HIGH FINANCE, N'GASSI! CAN YOU POSSIBLY IMAGINE ME DASHING ABOUT WITH SPEAR AND SHIELD?
I HEAR WE'VE BEEN SUMMONED TO DEAL WITH SOME PROVINCIAL DEMON!
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
A LOCAL PRANKSTER, NO DOUBT!

THE DEMON IS REAL INDEED! AND, IN T'CHALLA'S ABSENCE, THERE MUST BE A BLACK PANTHER AT THE HELM IN THIS CRISIS!
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT I FIT THIS IMAGE OF DEMON-FIGHTER?!


YOU'RE THE RIGHT AGE, KHANATA --THE RIGHT SIZE-- AN ATHLETE OF WIDE RENOWN!
I SIMPLY DRIVE FAST CARS--AND IF I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE GRAND PRIX AND EXCORSIZING EVIL SPIRITS--

WAIT! I'M CONVINCED THERE'S A MEDICAL PROBLEM! IT CALLS NOT FOR ONE WHO CAN FIGHT, BUT A MAN WHO CAN CURE!
THEN YOU INTEND TO TREAT THIS CURSED FOE AS A HOSPITAL PATIENT?

I AM A DOCTOR, N'GASSI!
YOU'RE A CALLOW YOUTH, JOSHUA ITOBO! GAZE UPON THE GREAT VIBRANIUM MOUND! IT CAME FROM THE SKIES--THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS METAL IS UNLIKE ANY KNOWN ON THIS PLANET--!

YOU KNOW THAT EXPOSURE TO VIBRANIUM CAN CHANGE THE BODY STRUCTURE OF HUMANS --AND TRANSFORM THEM INTO LIVING HORRORS!
THAT IS NOTHING BUT WAKANDAN FOLK-LORE!
JAKARRA, THE HALF-BROTHER OF T'CHALLA, DIDN'T THINK SO! HE DARED TO SUBMIT HIS OWN BODY TO THE VIBRANIUM EFFECT IN SEARCH OF POWER--AND SUCCEEDED ONLY TOO WELL!
FOR HE IS THE WILD THING WHICH ROAMS AMONG US --INCREDIBLY CHANGED AND RESISTANT TO OUR EVERY ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE HIM!!
SUDDENLY...
CRASH!
HAIL, COUSINS!
JAKARRA!
BY THE SACRED PANTHER FETISH!
B-BUT THIS CAN'T BE JAKARRA --NOT THIS REPELLENT CREATURE!!
YOU SEE ME AS VIBRANIUM MADE ME, ZUNI!
N'GASSI TOLD THE TRUTH! YOU WON'T STOP HIM WITH BAND-AIDS, DOCTOR!
YOU WON'T STOP ME AT ALL! I'VE COME TO KILL THE LOT OF YOU --AND CLAIM THIS DOMAIN BY RIGHT OF VICTORY IN COMBAT!
WELL, I FOR ONE DEFY YOUR THREAT! THE YOUNG ARE NOT NECESSARILY CRAVEN!

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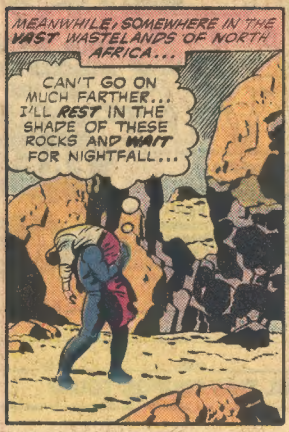
ROYAL WAKANDANS YIELD NO GROUND!!
YOU HEARD THE BOY! WE JUST CAN'T STAND BY AND DO NOTHING!
KRAK!
HELP HIM! DON'T LET HIM DIE!
ALMOST IN UNISON, THE RULING FAMILY BREAKS ITS BONDS OF INDECISION AND...
ATTACK THE BEAST!
WITH WHAT!? HE'LL TEAR THIS TO SHREDS!
INEPT CLOWNS! YOUR MOCKERY OF BATTLE WILL ONLY EARN YOU A COSTLIER DEATH!
GUARDS! GUARDS!
THE EVIL ONE IS HERE!
STAND CLEAR OF HIM! THESE WEAPONS ARE HIS MATCH!
WE'LL SEE HOW HIS TOUGHENED HIDE REACTS TO ACID!!
TSSS!
THE POWERFUL CHEMICAL BURNS ITS WAY INTO JAKARRA'S ARMORED TISSUE...
HE'S NOT PLEASED WITH THE TREATMENT! I THINK WE'VE GOT HIM!
YOU TRAITORS WILL PAY FOR THIS!!
SURRENDER TO THE CULT!

JAKARRA BELLOWS IN RAGE AND PLUNGES HEADLONG OUT OF THE NEAREST WINDOW...
WE WERE TOO LATE TO OUT-FLANK HIM! HE'S ESCAPING!
THAT DEMON IS BOUND T'LEAVE A TRAIL WE CAN FOLLOW! WE'LL FIND HIM AGAIN!

AND IN THE WAKE OF THE BRIEF SKIRMISH...
THE FAMILY IS PROUD OF YOU, JOSHUA ITOBO. SUCH COURAGE SHOULD BE REWARDED!
HE'S AWAKENED THE PANTHER IN ME. I FEEL YOUNG AGAIN!
THAT'S NOT HOW I FEEL. I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!

TELL US WHAT MUST BE DONE, N'GASSI! WE'LL FIGHT AS WARRIORS IF NEED BE!
THEN SO YOU SHALL --ALL OF YOU!
IF TRADITION DEMANDS A BLACK PANTHER, CONSIDER ME YOUR MAN!

NO, THERE IS ONLY ONE T'CHALLA! BUT, EACH OF YOU MUST STAND READY TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT YOU CAN UNTIL HIS RETURN.
THE DAYS AHEAD WILL BE DARK INDEED. WHEN JAKARRA'S CHANGE IS COMPLETE--HE MAY BECOME SOMETHING WE CANNOT CONTROL!


MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST WASTELANDS OF NORTH AFRICA...
CAN'T GO ON MUCH FARTHER... I'LL REST IN THE SHADE OF THESE ROCKS AND WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL...

IT WILL BE COOLER THEN... AND EASIER TO TRAVEL.
WITH SCARPA AS AN ADDED BURDEN, THE ODDS AGAINST MY RETURNING HOME SEEM OVERWHELMING --!!

A CRISIS DEEPENS AND THE TERROR GROWS! AND IN THE VANGUARD OF RESISTANCE --
THE BLACK MUSKETEERS

PANTHER POST SCRIPTS

c/o P.O. BOX 4943, THOUSAND OAKS, CA. 91360

Dear Jack:

The Black Panther is probably my favorite character in all the entire Marvel Universe. You are handling the book pretty well, but I think the Panther should fight some major super-villains in the near future. In fact, I have a list of questions:

1) Will the Panther battle some real super-villains soon?
2) I have heard the Panther will be getting a new costume. If so, when?
3) Will the Black Panther be starring in an upcoming MARVEL TREASURY EDITION?
4) Will he get his own annual?
5) How about guest-shots in other books?
6) And, finally, will I get my letter printed?

Michael Cortissoz
25 Train Street
Dorchester, MA 02122

We're gonna answer your list of questions in the order they were asked, Mike, 'cause they sum up in one single letter a lot of isolated queries that always seem to be popping up—here, there, and everywhere (but mostly *here*, among the mounds of Panther mail)!

1) Right off the bat, we're gonna be evasive on this one, since we really hate to give away in the slightest any possible future surprises in store for the series here on the mere letters page. Sorry.
2) Never. The Panther is definitely not getting a new costume. His present threads are among the most distinctive in all comicdom—functional, regal, and utterly appropriate.
3) Actually, every so often an occasional word will be heard on the subject, Mike, but truth to tell it seems extremely unlikely, at present. Dauntless Don McGregor's classic PANTHER'S RAGE epic is, for example, approximately triple the length of one of our titanic TREASURY EDITIONS.
4) No plans for an annual at present—although, again, it's not entirely impossible that such a special could materialize at some far future date.
5) Count on it. All of our cavortin' characters eventually end up puttin' in pandemonious guest appearances in some Marvel mag, generally when you least expect it. And don't forget that the Prince of the Wakandas is a regular in the monthly AVENGERS comic, Mike!
6) Wouldja believe no?! (Didn't think so.)

Jack—

An excerpt from the masthead atop page one of every issue of THE BLACK PANTHER: "The Prince of Wakanda stalks both the concrete of the city and the undergrowth of the veldt. . . ."

How about changing the bizarre recent settings to reflect that statement, so that the Panther's potential can be fully realized? It would be a change for the better.

Joe Linehan
32 E Bissell Avenue
Oil City, PA 16301

The top copy on our tintinnabulatin' line of Marvel mags is meant mainly to initiate the new convert to a particular comic, rather than to limit in any way the scope of the stories within. However, the objection you raise is a valid one, and since (aside from outer space and assorted alien dimensions) most of the earth which the Panther is likely to frequent is made up of either concrete or veldt, we've got a feeling there's more than a mild probability you'll be seeing the Prince of the Wakandas in either or both of these general locales a lot in issues to come.

Dear Marvel,

I have two sets of adjective to describe the new BLACK PANTHER. First: "Terrific! Stunning! A new high in comic fantasy! Simply wonderful!" Second (and just as sincerely): "Horrible! Repulsive! A complete destruction of a fantastic character! A terrible waste!"

You see, I genuinely feel both ways about this magazine. On its own, as a new comic by Jack Kirby, THE BLACK PANTHER is a truly fine effort. It's one of Jack's best works, focusing his many beliefs into human form, combining fantasy and reality into a single medium that is both hard action and high adventure. However, it is the total opposite of what was so finely accomplished by Don McGregor and Billy Graham in JUNGLE ACTION. Their T'Challa was a man who dealt totally in reality, whose conflicts were with other men, with nature, and with society. He was one of the most well realized characters Marvel has ever seen. He was so human, so realistic, that he transcended the world of comics. Reading JUNGLE ACTION was an experience, and it is a shame to see that slip away. Yet, some small trace of that noble T'Challa lingers on. . . in THE AVENGERS, where he is a human among the Norse gods, androids and super-beings. But to have this realistic Panther exist at the same time as Jack's fantasy Panther detracts from both characterizations. Would it be possible to draw some sort of distinction between the two. . . say, Kirby's T'Challa exists in the past, while the Panther currently appearing in THE AVENGERS is the modern man?

It's just a suggestion, but I'm dearly hoping that I can enjoy Jack's work and still not lose the beauty that McGregor and Graham brought to the character.

Richard Roder
Stissing Mountain Road
Pine Plains, NY 12567

Your proposed solution to the ongoing Panther debate is so interesting and thought provoking, Rich, that we decided to pre-empt the smattering of specific comments on ish #6 in order to present it to all of Marveldom Assembled for further comment. Does it, indeed, offer an adequate resolution for the dilemma resulting from the differences in characterization—or will it only spark further debate?

Let us hear from you, folks! And—remember to think regal!

BLACK PANTHER

scanned by *Wizard*